

7

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4 through 7, 8 through 10, 12 and 24 through 28 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii et. al. in further view of Zhao et. al. The Examiner has, however, indicated that claims 2, 3, 11, and 13 through 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In responding to these rejections, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of former claim 2 which has accordingly been cancelled. Claim 1 is therefore allowable. Claim 3 has been amended in view of the cancellation of claim 2. The remaining dependent claims of record inherit the limitations of allowable claim 1 and are therefore also allowable. The Applicant therefore believes this case to be in a position for allowance and respectfully requests the Examiner to pass this case on to issuance of a United States patent.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

8

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Vincent

Dr. Paul Vincent

Registration number 37,461

August 10, 2004

Date

Kohler Schmid Möbus  
Patentanwälte  
Ruppmannstrasse 27  
D-70565 Stuttgart  
Germany  
Telephone: 49-711-78 47 30  
Fax : 49-711-78 00 996